



There is a lot of overlap between the study of status and number, so you will have to do very little work in understanding this lesson. Just as Isms in Arabic have status, they also have number which tells you if the word is singular, pair or plural. The ending sounds and ending combinations we learned in status can also help you distinguish between words that are singular and words that are not. The following list outlines the notes we took on number and how to tell if a word belongs to that number category:

Number:

1. Singular (ES)
2. Pair (EC)
3. People Plural (EC)
4. Feminine Plural (EC)
5. Human Broken Plurals (ES)
6. Non-human Broken Plurals (ES)

Words that end in ending combinations may be pair or plural (depending on the combination). You may have noticed that ending sounds may be used to tell if a word is singular or a broken plural. This creates a problem: how do you know if you're looking at a singular word or a broken plural? That's where vocabulary comes in—you need to know what the word means, and that will be the deciding factor.

What is a broken plural, anyway? Broken plurals exist in English, as well. Normally, to make a word plural in English, you can add an 's' at the end ('book' becomes 'books,' 'car' becomes 'cars,' 'house' becomes 'houses,' etc). Any plural that doesn't simply take an 's' to become a plural is considered a **broken plural**. Geese, teeth, and mice are examples of broken plurals in English because they aren't predictable and need to be learned on a case-by-case basis. **Arabic broken plurals** are simply defined as any plurals that don't end with a plural combination: pair (aani, ayni), people plural (oona, eena) or feminine plural (aatun, aatin). Common examples of Arabic broken plurals you may have heard are كُفَّار (the plural of كَافِر), رُسُل (the plural of رَسُول), and كُتُب (the plural of كِتَاب).

EXERCISES:

What is the number of each of the red words below? How can you tell?

From clay	1. مِنْ طِينٍ
Those who will meet	2. مُلَاقُونَ
Two groups	3. طَائِفَتَيْنِ
The ones who ignore	4. مُعْرِضِينَ
The truth	5. بِالْحَقِّ
Drink	6. شَرَابٌ
The promise of Allah	7. وَعْدُ اللَّهِ
The ones who deliberately ignore	8. الْمُكْذِبِينَ
The two angels	9. الْمَلَائِكِينَ
Miraculous signs	10. آيَاتٌ
Believing women	11. مُؤْمِنَاتٌ
Two gardens	12. جَنَّاتٍ
Two arguers	13. خَصْمَانِ
The reward of the workers	14. أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ
The subservient ones	15. الْقَانِتِينَ